

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 02161 141155Z

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1877

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV UNEP

SUBJ: UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OTHER SUBJECTS MARCH 13, UNEP DEPUTY EX DIR TOLBA SAID HE IS NOW TRYING TO PERSUADE EX DIR STRONG TO REMAIN WITH UNEP FOR HIS FULL CONTRACTUAL PERIOD THROUGH END OF 1976. TOLBA IS USING AS LEVERAGE FACT THAT HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP QUOTE IMMEDIATELY UNQUOTE IF PERUVIAN OR OTHER LDC CANDIDATE GIVEN STRONG'S POST. STRONG REALIZES TOLBA'S CONTINUED PRESENCE ESSENTIAL TO ORDERLY TRANSFER, AS HE HAS DONE MOST OF DAY TO DAY RUNNING OF UNEP, AND MAY THEREFORE ELECT TO REMAIN THROUGH HIS CONTRACT IN ORDER TO RETAIN TOLBA.

2. TOLBA FEELS THAT IF HE AND STRONG CAN BOTH CONTINUE THROUGH 1976 (TOLBA'S CONTRACT RUNS OUT IN MID-1976, BUT HE THINKS HIS GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE HIM A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION ON HIS LEAVE OF ABSENCE), THEY WILL HAVE THE PROGRAM WELL ON ITS FEET BY THEN AND CAN ALSO PROVIDE FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER BY USING RKTTER PART OF PERIOD TO BREAK IN THEIR SUCCESSORS.
VA3. TOLBA ADMITS THAT WRITTEN COMMITMENTS GIVEN PERU
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 02161 141155Z

BY WALDHEIM AND HEAD OF AFRICAN GROUP MAY BE PROBLEM,

BUT FEELS LATTER CAN BE BROKEN, AS IT WAS APPARENTLY
DONE SOLELY ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE HEAD OF THE
AF GROUP WITHOUT FOLLOWING USUAL NOMINATING PROCEDURES
OR EVEN CONSULTING HIS OTHER AF COLLEAGUES.

4. WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY CONTINUING
AS DEPUTY EX DIR THROUGH HIS CONTRACT SHOULD WE/O
CANDIDATE BE PICKED TO REPLACE STRONG IN 1975, TOLBA
SAID HE DIDN'T THINK SO. HE COULD QUITE UNDERSTAND IF
EX DIR POSITION REGARDED AS WE/O POST, AND WOULD INDEED
EXPECT IT TO BE. BUT IF IT TO GO TO LDC'S, HE FELT HE
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MOST QUALIFIED CANDVEATE AND AGULD
THEREFORE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT ANY CARRY-
OVER PERIOD IF SOME OTHER LDC CANDIDATE GIVEN POST.

5. COMMENT: TOLBA AT MOMENT SEEMS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC
THAT HE CAN PREVAIL UPON STRONG TO STAY AND INDEED WE
HEAR FROM OTHER UNEP SOURCES THAT STRONG IS NOW TALKING
ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. VPT. MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
SUPPORTING TOLBA'S EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION AS
THEY APPEAR FROM HERE TO OFFER POSSIBILITY OF
SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO PRESENT IMPASSE. THERE ALSO
SOME RISK, HOWEVER, THAT STRONG MY AGREE NOW TO ZAY
AND THEN CHANGE HIS MIND SOME MONTHS HENCE, REOPENING
ENTIRE ISSUE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY THAT FUND OFFICER
JUST BROUGHT TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IS THAT PAUL
BERTHOUD MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO TAKE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORSHIP IF STRONG'S POSITION GOES TO PERUVIAN
OR OTHER LDC CANDIDATE.
MARSHALL

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